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Statement submitted by Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

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Statement

It is our hope that building peace as a prerequisite for cooperation for development will be considered a priority for the upcoming high-level segment. In his report dated 26 July 2013, entitled "A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015", the Secretary-General states that in 2000 Member States made a commitment to advancing development, peace and security and human rights, yet wars continue to ravage continents.

It is lamentable that the machinery of war is destroying people's lives, bombing cities and wasting Earth's resources that could be used for development. We are saddened by the destruction of buildings, roads and bridges that has isolated communities and has barred them from receiving humanitarian aid. In many countries, landmines have isolated communities from their agricultural lands and have left them malnourished and starving. In addition, civil society organizations' efforts to reach those communities and to provide them with humanitarian aid have been hampered by incessant conflict, violence and war. In the past, four church women lost their lives while trying to help victims of violence in a war-torn country. Our lives and the lives of those with whom we work are constantly in danger. In this atmosphere of war, collaboration for development becomes a dangerous enterprise.

The absence of peace in many lands has exacerbated the situation of poverty within countries that are otherwise rich in natural resources. Cooperation for development can happen only where there is confidence, reciprocal relationships and trust among nations. This in turn creates an atmosphere of dignity and respect for both parties. The Secretary-General speaks of a life of dignity for all, which can be defined as a life that is founded upon respect for human rights and considers development to be the vehicle that promotes that dignity. In addition, the principle of justice provides stability and durability to partnerships for development by promoting cooperation and empowerment for both parties.

Holistic consideration of development cooperation must be guided by the principle of just relationships, meaning that policies that protect the dignity of the community of life as well as the integrity of the Earth need to be put in place. It is important to realize that there is no peace without justice and without peace there is no firm foundation to support cooperation for development. Therefore, political momentum must convert pledges into implementation and funding for war into funding for peace and security. This is the only way that swords will turn into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks.